[22750/514]

E UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)

Christoph Hilgert

Serial No.

10/006,597

Filed

December 4, 2001

For

FLAT GASKET FOR A RECIPROCATING ENGINE

OR A DRIVEN MACHINE

Examiner

Michael J. Kyle

Art Unit

3676

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Richard L. Mayer By: Nay 20, 30, 333

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of February 14, 2003, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the paragraph on page 3, starting on line 3 and ending on

line 6.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 19.

Please amend claims 17, 18 and 20 to 30, without prejudice, as follows:

17. (Amended) A flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine having a cylinder head, comprising: at least one metal sheet 0.05 to 0.5 mm thick which is provided with a coating of an elastomer film at least on sides facing outward in